

**Christmas Entertainment,
AT THE LUTHERAN AND REFORMED CHURCH
M'GAHEYSVILLE.**

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It is always pleasant to recall a happy visit, but delightful to record the many pleasing incidents attending it, as well as to remember to be forgotten hospitality and kindness which chains the heart to the loved spot.

The bright and glorious morning of Christmas was found us in McTigheysville, one of the anxious throng awaiting the "great event" of the day.

Advertisements and newspaper paragraphs had rendered us so thoroughly "extra" and

As was announced, the dinner house was opened at twelve o'clock, and the Seminary boys filled the room with hungry, thirsty souls. Entering the room, smiling countenances and sweet voices summoned to meat, oyster, cake and ice cream tables, laden with the richest profusion, and presided over by those of the "fair sex" whose beau-

and affable manner, while the manner in which their sweet words wooed and won your "loose change" would have done credit to clerks who have had years and years of experience. The "inner man" satisfied with all the heart could wish, sighs came forth for the hour of six, the time when the church would be opened. At length the tardy clock pointed the hour. The door was opened and eager eyes feasted on the scene.

How to describe the marvellous beauty known not to the ignorant because they do not see it. To describe the beauty of the

tion. It was purely grand. From the lofty ceiling, over the chandelier, suspended eight massive festoons gracefully caught up regular intervals around the church. Immediately surrounding the centre of the chandelier was a wreath of cedar, crysanthemums and roses, while, suspending from it was a magnificent basket of frosted cedar roses, crysanthemums and drooping ferns, producing a charming and attractive effect.

Immediately in front of the pulpit hung a heavy festoon, under which and supporting the desk appeared an immense harp of roses, relieved on either side by hand-

Back of the pulpit, suspended low, was heavy festoons of cedar, over which appeared the inscription: "H. S., in hands of caryatid columns of pure white, the H joining upwards to a cross. Over this: "In manus" in large letters symbolized the creed of the church, "God with us," which yet above all appeared the most beautiful and simple of all—the cross—only adorned by one pure white rose.

Around the church the walls were relieved by tastily inscribed banners, above each suspended heavy cedar wreaths. The congregations of the inscriptions to the

On one side of the pulpit stood a noble tree its huge proportions and massive limbs almost concealed by silver and glass pith-

water, pin cushions, watch cases, air castles, wicker pockets and innumerable crocheted air fancy articles. Never have we seen such a rich profusion and such good taste in the selection of colors. Mottos, wall pockets, cravats, handkerchiefs, etc., were rich in their blendings. Before illuminating it was beautiful and rich—afterwards grand.

Body and gallery of house full, the organ soon pealed forth from the gallery to the delight of all, "Handel's noble Christmas carol," and the skill in which the choir rendered it challenges the most skillful singer. Well might the organist say, "His was pro-

The speaker, Mr. Hunter, took the stand and after a short address the "little ones" were gratified by seeing the bright light appear among the branches of the tree.

Soon it was a perfect blaze of beauty, and as name after name rolled through the church the smile of gratification too plainly said, "I am happy" and "satisfied," while older heads, as they took the "dog and elephant" assigned them, created amusement for the crowd.

Large packages fell to the lot of the Pastor and wife of one denomination, and, of

Again the organ pealed forth and the closing doxology was sung heartily by all, whereupon the church was emptied of its former occupants all satisfied and pleased.

We congratulate our friends on this grand success—more than realizing the most sanguine expectations. Nothing was overdone; not one unpleasant feature perceptible.

In the pulpit were three denominations: Brothers' order, Strother and Haunter. They were pleased to see. It was as if they had, and no one could help exclaiming, "How pleasant it is to see brethren dwell together."

The organ for the occasion was kindly loaned by Mr. Arthur Bader and the thousands of the church are due him for this contribution towards its sweet music. It was provided over by Capt. C. H. Stebbins, the accomplished organist of Dr. Strickler's large church in Augusta county, and we heartily endorse the encomium of a paper of that county, that he stands without a rival. His voice

showing him to be a born leader—while purity of tone displays fine finish and complete control. We congratulate the church on securing his services. The whole decoration was his taste and skill—only excellent his untiring energy.

The solos of his choir were admirably rendered, and we were surprised when we learned they had practiced but once. We heard Capt. Stebbins say he would not be afraid to take them and in one week's practice give a successful concert. One and all of them deserve the highest praise for skill and execution.

The thanks of the colored are given to Mr. Cyrus Killian and lady, Mr. and Mrs. Pence, Mr. and Mrs. Bowers, the Misses Spencer, Messrs. Whit, Jos. Tom and Mr. S. Mrs. Hiseam, Charlie Armentrout, Maggie Armentrout, Arthur and Miss Bada Mrs. Hedrick and many others whose names we do not know, for their untiring pains and labor in this great work.

Labor was entirely suspended at the homes, and as it was home duties for a time foregone, wife heart and soul centered in this work.

And now in bidding you all farewell,

joyous Christmas of '78, but rouse ye up a
let each returning festival of your church
looked forward to with joy—making it
another grand reunion each year and striv-
ing to make each return more joyous than
last—thus showing to the world your her-
felt joy that the "Christ is born."
Yours etc,
FELIX
McKENNEY has the wonderful Stra-
clock on exhibition.

